

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4447

INFO AMCON GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 7842

FROM KEELEY

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT UG KE PFOR SREF

SUBJECT: UGANDAN EXILE JOE KIWANUKA

1. SUMMARY. AFTER BEING PURSUED BY JOE KIWANUKA FOR TWO DAYS, I AGREED TO SEE HIM NOV 16/ HE WAS PROMINENT JOURNALIST AND POLITICIAN IN KAMPALA, MEMBER OF FAMILY OF LATE (MURDERED) CHIEF JUSTICE BENEDICTO KIWANUKA. IN BRIEF, KIWANUKA'S STORY WAS THAT HE FLED UGANDA AFTER BEING LABELLED A "CIA AGENT" HAS NOW BEEN TOLD BY KENYAN POLICE HE MUST LEAVE KENYA BECAUSE AMIN HAS INSISTED HE BE RETURNED TO UGANDA; HE WANTS TO GO TO LONDON, BUT IS PENNILESS AND NEEDS HELP. END SUMMARY.

2. KIWANUKA SAID HE HAD BEEN IN NAIROBI ABOUT SEVEN WEEKS. GENERAL AMIN HAD CHARGED THAT GHANAIAAN EVANGELIST "REVEREND JOHN" WAS A CIA AGENT WHOHAD IMPLANTED A SECT IN UGANDA, AND HE HAD LABELLED KIWANUKA, WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF REDEEMED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN KAMPALA, FOUNDED BY REVEREND JOHN IN 1972, AS A "CIA AGENT" ALSO. THOUGH AMIN HAD EARLIER BEEN FULL OF PRAISE FOR JOHN AND HAD GIVEN HIM HONORARY

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UGANDAN CITIZENSHIP, HE LATER BECAME SUSPICIOUS OF

HIM BECAUSE SO MANY PROMINENT UGANDANS, INCLUDING PEOPLE IN AMIN'S REGIME, AS WELL AS FORMER POLITICIANS, HAD JOINED JOHN'S CHURCH. MORNING AFTER AMIN'S OUTBURST KIWANUKA WENT TO ENTEBBE AND BOARDED FLIGHT FOR NAIROBI.

3. KIWANUKA SAID THAT LAST FRIDAY AMIN HAD RENEWED HIS CHARGE ABOUT KIWANUKA BEING A CIA AGENT IN HIS DIA-TRIBE STIMULATED BY USG DECISION TO CLOSE ITS EMBASSY IN KAMPALA. AMIN HAD SAID THAT KIWANUKA WAS IN A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY ON CIA PAYROLL. KIWANUKA SAID GOU HAD CONFISCATED ALL HIS ASSETS, HOMES, SHOP, CARS, AND HIS FAMILY IS NOW DISPERSED AND IN HIDING. YESTERDAY HE WAS CALLED TO NAIROBI POLICE HEADQUARTERS WHERE A DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NAMED SALIM TOLD HIM THAT AMIN HAD ASKED KENYATTA TO RETURN KIWANUKA TO UGANDA. KIWANUKA SAID HE TOLD SALIM HE WOULD BE KILLED IF HE WAS SENT BACK, SO GOK WOULD HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS MURDER. SALIM SAID HE WOULD NOT BE SENT BACK BUT HE WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE KENYA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BECAUSE OF PRESSURE BEING EXERTED ON GOK BY AMIN.

4. KIWANUKA TOLD ME HE WOULD LIKE TO GO TO LONDON, BUT HE IS PENNILESS AND CANNOT EVEN BUY A TICKET. I ASKED HIM IF HE HAD VISITED BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION OR UNHCR OFFICE AND HE SAID HE HAD NOT. (HE APPARENTLY TURNED TO US FIRST BECAUSE OF LONG-STANDING FRIENDSHIP WITH DR. FRENISE LOGAN, WHOM HE VISITED YESTERDAY). I SAID I VERY MUCH REGRETTED HIS SITUATION BUT USG DOES NOT HAVE FUNDS TO HELP POLITICAL EXILES AND HE SHOULD DIRECT HIS APPEAL TO UNHCR, AS HE SEEMED TO BE A LEGITIMATE POLITICAL REFUGEE WHO CANNOT RETURN TO HIS COUNTRY BECAUSE HIS LIFE WOULD BE IN DANGER. (AT SAME TIME, GOK HAS OBLIGATIONS TO HIM UNDER CONVENTION ON REFUGEES.)

5. COMMENT: KIWANUKA'S TALE IS A TYPICAL ONE THESE DAYS AS FLOW OF PROMINENT EXILES OUT OF UGANDA PROCEEDS APACE.
LINDSTROM

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